



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PAKISTAN

Gender Equality

November 2015



Photo: USAID/Pakistan

Empowering women to participate in the economy is smart economics. Through the Dairy Project, women are developing livestock skills and earning income through extension services.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Provided health, legal, and counseling services to more than **37,000** female survivors of gender-based violence
- Awarded more than **800** higher education scholarships awarded to academically talented, but economically disadvantaged young women
- Rehabilitated more than **341** girls' schools, many of them in the conflict-affected areas of FATA and KP
- Gave scholarships to **636** Pakistani women to complete M.A. and Ph.D. programs at U.S.-based universities
- Trained more than **5,400** rural women in animal husbandry and livestock management, resulting in an average earning of **\$132** per year.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are critical to building stable, democratic societies; realizing human rights; furthering international peace and security; growing vibrant market economies; addressing pressing health and education challenges; and ensuring effective and sustainable development. According to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2014, Pakistan ranks 141 out of 142 countries worldwide. Large gaps continue to exist between men and women in health, education, politics, and economic participation. Factors contributing to high inequalities for women include gender-based violence, restricted mobility, lack of education, little awareness of rights, lack of access to and ownership of resources and assets, and limited access to social services. USAID is working to narrow the gaps between men and women to promote a more prosperous, stable society in Pakistan.

KEY PROJECTS

IMPROVING ACCESS TO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

USAID's **Dairy Project** seeks to increase incomes and job opportunities for rural women by training them to work with livestock and supporting self-employment. Rural women earn extra income by providing extension services to fellow small dairy farmers. In mid-July 2015, the **Satpara Development Project** established dairy/livestock Farmer Field Schools for women to help improve the milk production from their cows and buffaloes. The **Balochistan Agriculture Project** helps female micro-entrepreneurs increase their income from wool through washing, mechanical shearing, and grading, as well as through market linkages. In a partnership with the U.S. Department of Commerce, USAID organized a Pakistan-Afghanistan Business Opportunities Conference that resulted in seats for women on the Pakistan-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The U.S.-Pakistan **Partnership for Agricultural Market Development (AMD)** is expanding the roles of women entrepreneurs in targeted product lines: mangoes, citrus, livestock, and high-value vegetables. AMD will provide grants directly to female agribusiness entrepreneurs as well as incentives to grantees who employ more female managers and workers. The upcoming **Small and Medium Enterprise Activity** will support female entrepreneurs by increasing their access to technology, markets, and finance; addressing inequities in policies related to registration, regulation, access to finance, and entrepreneurship; and strengthening women's chambers of commerce and business associations.

SUPPORTING MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

USAID's **Maternal and Child Health (MCH) program** is increasing access to and use of high quality maternal, newborn, and child health services. It is also increasing couples' use of family planning methods with an emphasis on joint decision-making for healthy timing and spacing of births. USAID has convened more than 44,000 women support groups to create safe places for women to meet, receive health information, and discuss health behaviors. Through MCH, USAID is also developing a Gender and Community Dialogue Toolkit for community facilitators to foster attitudinal change on key issues relating to women and girls' health, education, and inclusion. Maturing into its third year, the MCH program is strengthening systems to ensure sustainable health gains in Pakistan's newly decentralized health sector.

INCREASING GIRLS' ACCESS TO EDUCATION

To ensure more girls have the opportunity to pursue education, the **Sindh Basic Education Program** and **Improving Education Quality Project** are mobilizing communities to increase girls' enrollment in school and train female teachers, which encourages families to send their girls to school. USAID is also rehabilitating girls' schools in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that were damaged in conflict and natural disasters. To support

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Gender Equality (continued)



Photo: USAID/Pakistan

USAID provides scholarships to academically talented, but economically disadvantaged young women through its **Merit and Needs Based Scholarship Program**.



Photo: USAID/Pakistan

USAID supports women's advancement in traditionally male-dominated fields such as energy and engineering.



USAID/Pakistan

Through the **GEP program**, USAID supports local organizations working to expand women's access to justice, knowledge of women's rights, and opportunities for women to exercise their rights. Nearly half of the resources are devoted to ending gender-based violence.

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higher education, USAID provides scholarships to women through the **Merit and Needs Based Scholarship program (MNSBP)** and the **Fulbright Program**. MNSBP awards university scholarships to academically talented, but economically disadvantaged Pakistani students and currently awards 50% of all scholarships to young women. USAID also funded the construction of a 384-bed women's dormitory at Forman Christian College in Lahore so women from remote areas of the country can attend college. As a part of the **U.S. Let Girls Learn Initiative**, USAID is committing \$70 million and working jointly with the Government of Pakistan and other partners to help educate and empower over 200,000 adolescent girls across Pakistan.

COMBATting GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

USAID combats gender-based violence (GBV) in Pakistan through its **Gender Equity Program (GEP)**, which supports local activities that expand women's knowledge of and ability to exercise their rights and access justice. GEP is training judicial officers to better handle GBV complaints. The program is also helping women's shelters provide legal aid, counseling, and technical and vocational skills, and connecting women to potential employers. USAID is providing life skills training for GBV survivors and working with employers and female workers to implement the 2010 Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act.

SUPPORTING WOMEN IN THE ENERGY SECTOR

USAID launched the second phase of its **Energy Sector Internship Program** in April 2015 for 45 female university graduates, placing them in public and private sector organizations that offered on-the-job experience and opportunities for advancement in a traditionally male-dominated field. **USAID's Energy Policy Program** increased female training participation rates from 4% to 19% between January and July 2015. The **Power Distribution Program (PDP)** established a day care center in the Multan Electric Power Company so women had a safe place to keep their children while on duty, and conducted gender equity training sessions for senior management. USAID also conducted briefings in all power distribution companies on the Sexual Harassment Act of Pakistan, addressing a key barrier to women's participation in the sector.

INCREASING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

Through the **Gender Equity Program**, USAID provided grants to help women register for Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs), which give them access to services and allow them to vote. GEP is catalyzing critical groups to influence policy and legislation and to advocate for women's greater participation in politics and the economy. In addition, USAID's **Political Parties Development Project** helps Pakistan's political parties more effectively develop policies that respond to constituent and grassroots concerns and seeks to promote greater participation of women, particularly within leadership bodies. This project encourages parties to have women comprise at least 50 percent of working groups, research units, and training fellowships. This exposure will give women the opportunity to enhance their skills, advocate their positions, and advance within their respective parties.

PROMOTING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MEDIA

USAID uses its media platforms to highlight positive female role models and promote women as successful business owners, politicians, activists, peace-makers, and leaders through local radio shows, television shows, blogs, Twitter, Facebook, and the USAID website.